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THE BULLETIN OF THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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PORTRAIT OF MARSHAL FOCH

The Museum has recently received, as the gift of Charles Briggs and his son, Dr. Charles Edwin Briggs, a portrait of Marshal Foch, painted in Paris by E. Hodgson Smart, an English portrait painter, who has spent much of his time in Cleveland during recent years and has painted many portraits here.

Two years ago the donors offered to send Mr. Smart to Paris for the purpose of painting this portrait for the Museum, providing sittings could be secured. Secretary of War Baker, as a Cleveland man, was especially desirous of having such a portrait acquired for this Museum and succeeded in interesting Marshal Foch through the good offices of Colonel T. Bentley Mott, Military Attaché at Paris. There is no doubt that the Marshal was also influenced by his friendship for another Cleveland man, Myron T. Herrick, the present Ambassador to France, who is a member of the Museum's Advisory Council.

It was particularly fortunate that the portrait was ready to be shown first on November ninth, the day that Marshal Foch arrived in Cleveland, and plans were made for a formal unveiling in his presence. The local committee found it necessary to cancel every possible engagement to save the Marshal's strength for his many public appearances and he could not therefore visit the Museum. As preparations had been completed, however, the simple ceremony was carried out. The curtains, surmounted by a beautiful French flag of silk lent for the occasion by Dr. Briggs, were drawn apart by the Misses Jean and Elinor Briggs, revealing the speaking likeness of Marshal Foch.

The portrait was then formally presented to the Museum by Dr. Briggs in behalf of his father and himself. He told briefly of the circumstances attending its procural, of the peculiar advantages Mr. Smart had enjoyed and of the personal interest taken by the Marshal, who made several early morning visits to the studio to pose for the portrait. The President, J. H. Wade, accepted the portrait of Marshal Foch for the Trustees, expressing in their behalf the appreciation of the Museum for the gift of this fine likeness of one of the greatest men of our time.

F. A. W.